GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:563
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual growth rate of GDP in agricultural and allied products plummeted during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the private investment in this sector doubled during the post reforms period;

(c) if so, the volume of private investment in Agricultural Sector during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has evaluated the reasons for the negative trend in this sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to remove restrictions on storage of agricultural products;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (e): According to the estimates of GDP released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) the growth rates of Gross Value Addition (GVA) in the Agricultural & Allied Sector for the years 1999- 2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are 1.3%, -0.2% and 5.7% respectively at 1993-94 prices. The growth rate of agriculture is unsteady due to aberrant weather conditions. There is no negative trend in the performance of Agriculture Sector. The investment in Agriculture & Allied Sector has been estimated by CSO for the years upto 2000-01, according to which the private investment in the sector has more than doubled to the level of Rs.19648 Crore in the year 2000-01 from Rs.9056 Crore in the year 1993-94. The volume of private investment in the sector for the three years, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are Rs.16254 Crores, Rs.18605 Crores and Rs.19648 Crores respectively.

(f) to (h): Yes, Sir. In order to facilitate free trade and movement of foodgrains, and to enable the farmers to get best prices for their produce, achieve price stability and ensure availability of foodgrains in deficit areas, a Central Order titled `Removal of (Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs Order, 2002 has been issued by Government, under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, vide GSR 104 (E), dated 15.2.2002 according to which any dealer can freely buy, stock, sell, transport etc., any quantity of wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils and shall not require any license or permit therefor.